



## News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbnr>

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### **Hot and Dry Weather Increases Fire Activity on Arapaho and Squirrel Creek Fires**

**(LARAMIE, Wyo.) July 20, 2012** – Returning hot and dry conditions are resulting in increased fire activity in unburned portions of the Arapaho and Squirrel Creek Fires on the Medicine Bow National Forest. This is resulting in individual and group torching of trees as well as visible smoke columns.

A Type 1 helitanker, assigned to the Arapaho Fire, responded to hot spots on the Squirrel Creek Fire this afternoon. Additionally, crews on both fires continue to focus on monitoring and mopping up hot spots that can be safely managed.

While the public should remain vigilant and report any new wildfires, there is no cause for concern from these smokes. Most spots are either contained by constructed line or surrounded by burned out fuels and/or non combustible features such as rock outcrops. Periods of increased fire activity in unburned portions of both fires may continue until a season-ending precipitation event suppresses remaining hot spots. New wildland fires should be reported by calling Casper Dispatch at 307-261-7691 or 911.

The public is also reminded that Stage 2 Fire Restrictions remain in effect on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland.

Updates for both fires can be obtained at [www.inciweb.org/unit/5418](http://www.inciweb.org/unit/5418) and Twitter at @MBRNFsTBNB.

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